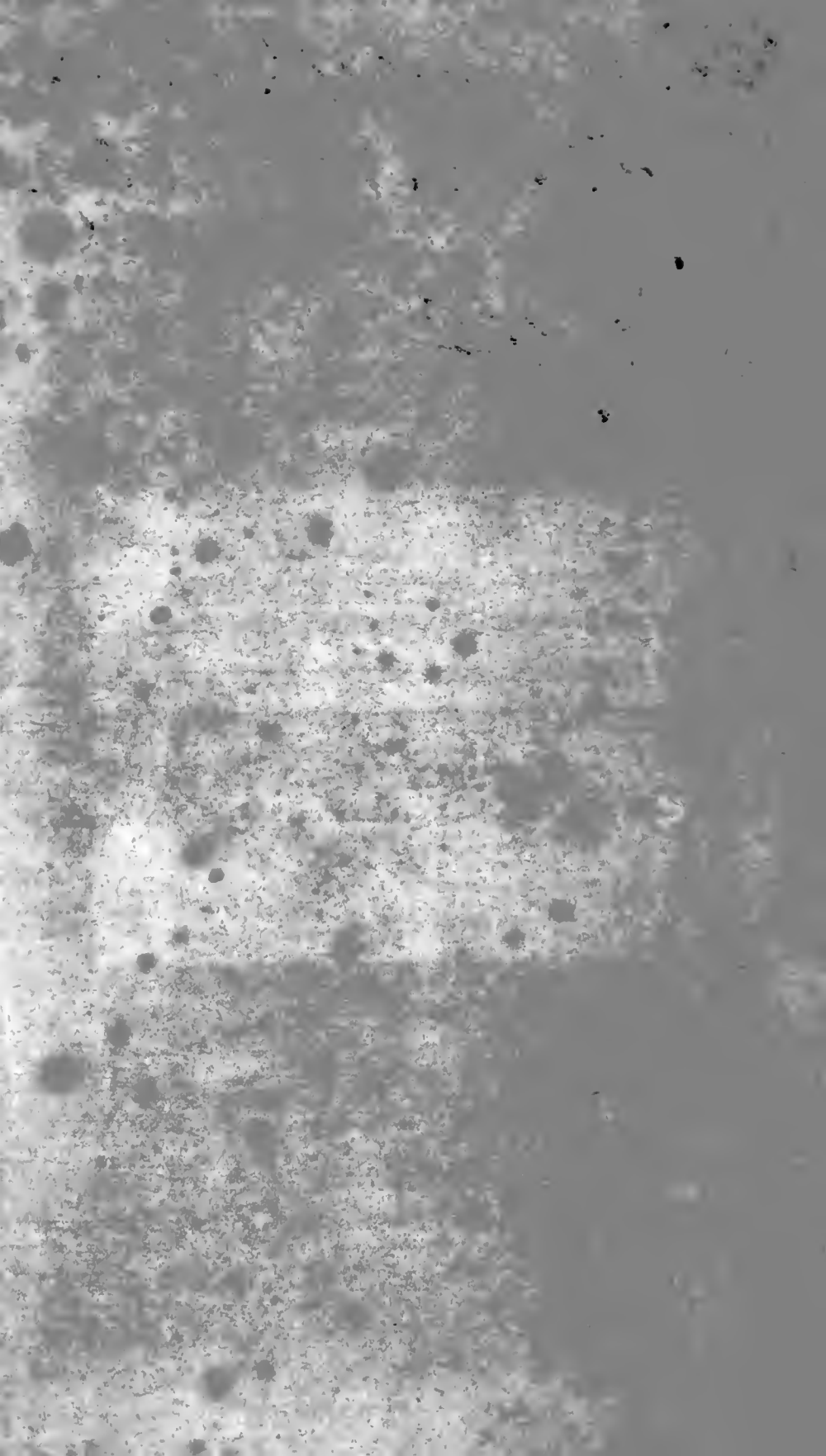




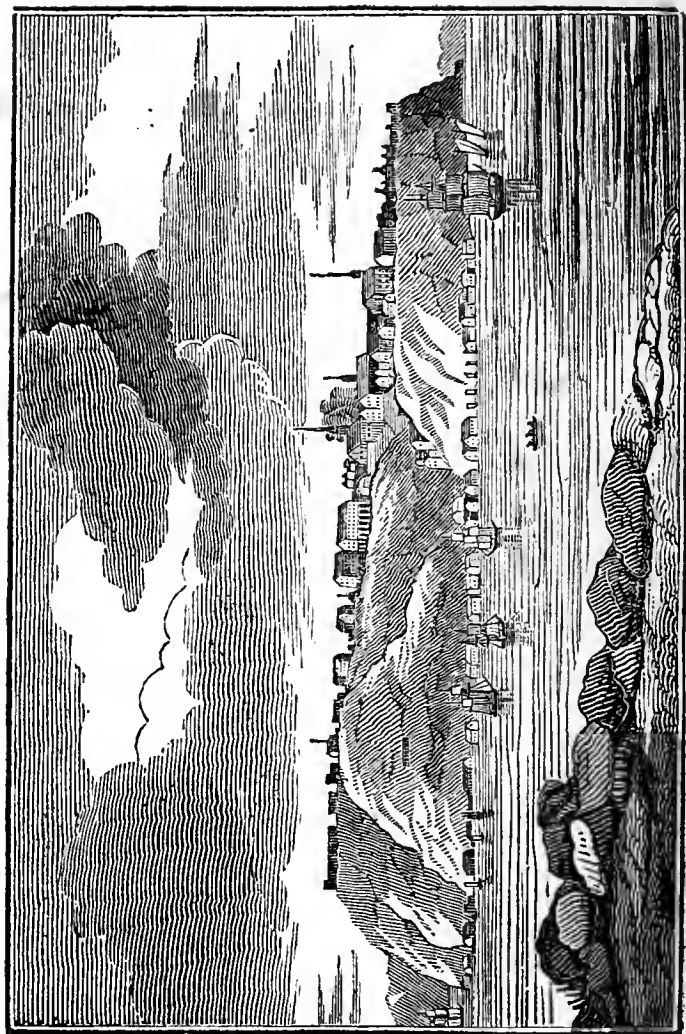
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CONVERSATIONS

1839

See vol. 14 Page

ON

31.

C. C. Dean

Prof.

C A N A D A .

WRITTEN FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS SABBATH SCHOOL
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The following pages have been prepared with a design to communicate to the minds of youth some important information respecting the Province of Lower Canada. This country is scarcely excelled in beauty and grandeur of scenery. In richness and fertility of soil it is not surpassed by any in the same latitude. Commercially it is of great importance; but morally dark and threatening.

It has been the object of the writer to embody information valuable for all, though addressed particularly to children. Most of the facts were taken by a recent traveler and temporary resident in the Province, but the "Tour of Silliman" and the reports of the "Canada Home Miss. and Education Societies," have been assistants in completing the work.

C A N A D A .

P A R T I .

As the hour drew near for the arrival of the daily stage coach in the village of B.—there was no little excitement in one of its retired families. An interesting group of children were gathered around the windows, that overlooked the turnpike, while the wife and mother though more silent, manifested in her countenance deeper anxiety. In a few moments the rattling wheels and prancing horses were in full view, and as they turned towards the house “Papa is

coming, papa is coming," was heard from every mouth until it was exchanged for "He's come, he's come." Almost all, who know by experience the pain of separation from friends, know also the joy of welcoming their return; but this joy was heightened on the present occasion by an unexpected delay of several days. The scene that followed the unloading of the stage, was too sacred for even the pen of affection to portray. Suffice it to say, the supper soon passed away, and after a few inquiries into their domestic concerns, the father listened to their requests for a description of his tour.

"Papa," said little Henry, "I never knew any thing about Canada, and mama said you would tell us all about it when you came home."

Father. I feel too much fatigued to give you a full account of my tour this evening, but if you will bring me my map, and seat yourselves around the table, I will mention some general things. You perceive by

looking upon this, that the Lower Province where I spent my time, lies directly north of the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and a part of New York. The Upper Province bounds it on the west; the Atlantic Ocean on the east; but its northern boundary is undefined. It is divided, as you will see, into four districts. District of Montreal—of Three Rivers—of Quebec—of Gaspé. These you will perceive are general divisions. The land upon the rivers, is divided into Seigniories, which are occupied principally by the French Catholics. The remaining portions under improvement, are divided into townships and inhabited generally by Protestants.

Eliza. Are these Protestants French also?

Father. No. They are English, Scotch, Irish and Americans. The eastern townships, of which I shall tell you more at another time, occupy that portion of the province which lies between the states of Vermont, New Hampshire, and the river

Chaudiere on the East, and the French settlements on the North.

Charles. Then you was near Canada, Papa, when you wrote us from Burlington, Vt.

Father. Yes, and as I sent you my journal up to that time, I shall say nothing of the places and scenes described there, but commence with my entrance into Canada. I took a steam-boat from that place toward evening on a delightful day in June, and the next morning the town of St. Johns was in full view. You cannot imagine the variety of feeling, which agitated my mind at this sudden change. I laid me down to sleep the night before with a vivid impression of the beauty of the scenery around me, and its similarity to the region of my nativity, I awoke a stranger in a strange land; beautiful indeed, but new. Every thing around me said I had left my own for a *foreign* country.

Mrs. M. I do not understand what could strike you as so strange before landing.

Father. The houses are not in our style of building. The men that crowded the wharves were not only differently formed and different in stature from our countrymen; but they were differently dressed and spoke a different language. The flag that waved from the mast was not the star-spangled banner of America. The officers that patrolled the streets were clad in king-ly uniform.

Mary. Is St. Johns inhabited by English or French?

Father. Generally French, though there are many English residents. You will recollect Canada is under the English Government; so that the public officers are in British uniform. They obtained this country by conquest from the French about 1760. The British have a few troops stationed here, but the ancient fort is in ruins. The cemetery of the Garrison is still visible. The monuments are boards painted black; the inscriptions are painted on them in white letters.

Mrs. M. You wrote of spending the Sabbath there. In what manner was it observed by the inhabitants?

Father. Their outward observance of it was very commendable, and perhaps equal to places of its size in the U. S.

Eliza. Did you go from that place to Montreal by land or water?

Father. By land as far as La Prairie, a delightful village eighteen miles from St. Johns.

Charles. You spoke of the buildings: in what respects do they differ from ours?

Father. The farm-houses and many in the villages are what are called block houses. They are but one story and built of logs.

Catharine. Do they look any like the log houses we saw in the State of New York?

Father. Not at all. The logs are first hewn square, and then split in two, which makes them like plank, say from four to six inches in thickness. They are then fitted together, and if there are any crevi-

ces they are filled with mortar and white-washed within and without, roof and all, which gives them a very fine appearance. The windows generally in the French houses, are divided up and down in the middle and swing on hinges like doors. They are well fitted for the climate, being warm and comfortable. Many who are able have double windows.

Henry. Those we saw had but one room in them.

Father. Many of these have not, and if other rooms are needed, another building is attached and then another and another as they may wish.

Mary. Do the people in Canada, generally, appear like those Canadian Frenchmen we saw on our tour of the Lakes?

Father. Far from it. Their manners are very courteous, and they are so polite and attentive to your wants that you feel at home with them immediately. Their treatment of you wherever you meet them, forms a striking but pleasing contrast to

the selfish indifference that is manifested towards strangers in some places where you travel.

Catharine. Do they dress any like those we saw ?

Father. I believe the dress of the peasantry is the same every where. The men wear a sash around their waist and a long conical woollen cap on their heads, or falling back upon their shoulders.

Charles. Is the country level from St. Johns to La Prairie ?

Father. Yes, but the land is poor a part of the way.

Mrs. M. Are there regular stage-routes from St. Johns to Montreal ?

Father. Yes; but we went in a Canadian Calash.

Mary. What is that, Papa ?

Father. A carriage made something like an old fashioned chaise, very stout and generally without a top.

Catharine. How many can ride in them ?

Father. Two grown persons beside a

driver. The horse is farther from the body of the carriage than in our vehicles, and thus leaves room for a driver's seat in front.

Eliza. How far is Montreal from La Prairie?

Father. Only nine miles, on the other side of the river.

Mrs. M. You surprise me. You cannot mean that the St. Lawrence river is nine miles wide?

Father. It is crossed in this place in an oblique direction. Its *average* width is stated to be two miles.

Charles. I have heard much of this river, Papa, will you describe it?

Father. I wish I could. It is certainly one of the most beautiful rivers I ever beheld, and the movement of its waters make it majestic. Conceive, if you can, of an immense body of deep placid water; its banks sometimes compressing it into half a mile even, and then expanding into lakes of some miles in breadth. Then reflect that it holds on the even tenor of its way,

except when broken by rocks and islands, for nearly seven hundred miles, receiving as it passes, the mighty waters of the Ottawa and many smaller streams until it empties itself into one of the great thoroughfares of nations,—the Atlantic Ocean.

Henry. I did not know that the Ottawa was a very large river, Papa.

Father. It would not suffer much in comparison with our own noble Missouri, either for length or size.

Catharine. Is the St. Lawrence 700 miles long?

Father. This is its length from Lake Ontario; but it is considered by the inhabitants to be the same which appears in different places between the lakes of North America. It is indeed the same water, though called by different names, and considered in this light, taking the entire range from Lake Superior, it would be more than 2,000 miles long; and is perhaps in *volume* of water, greater than any other river in North America.

Eliza. How far is this river navigable?

Father. Montreal is considered at the head of navigation, though boats of various descriptions go through to the Lakes, by means of canals.

Mary. Do large vessels navigate this river?

Father. I saw *many* of between two and three hundred tons burden, and was told that ships of six hundred tons could ascend the river. Vast numbers are employed in procuring lumber, which is taken down the water by rafts and secured in bays. It would have delighted me, Henry, to have shown you one of these rafts. Many of them contain timber to the value of several thousand dollars, and on them are erected with bark, wigwams or huts for the convenience of those who navigate the rafts.

Henry. How many men does it need to take care of them?

Father. Some of the large ones require from fifteen to twenty-five, and in spite of all their efforts the wind frequently sepa-

rates the raft, and large amounts of property are destroyed in this way.

Charles. Was the St. Lawrence River named for the man who discovered it, like the Hudson?

Father. No. Jaques Cartier, who selected the site for Montreal, entered this river on St. Lawrence day, as it is called, and this is said to be the origin of the name.

Mrs. M. Has this river a strong current?

Father. It is said to be generally about three miles an hour, though in some places probably double that force.

Mary. Is there any thing particularly noticeable about its lakes?

Father. No. They are simply widenings of the river, but are "sprinkled with islands," which serve to give quite a variety to the scenery.

Catharine. How many islands are there in the river?

Father. It is said the whole number between Lake Ontario and the Gulf of St.

Lawrence, exceeds three hundred. I had heard much of the beauty of these Islands, but they cannot be conceived by one, who has not seen them. Some of the most important of them I may attempt to describe hereafter.

Mrs. M. Is the soil good on the river?

Father. Excellent. It was formerly said that "the farmers were afraid of raising too much lest the price for produce should fall," and I was told that now many cannot dispose of their stable manure even as a gift, and that it is frequently carried to the river and left in heaps on the ice to float away when it breaks up in the Spring. If this is a fact, it is probably owing more to a want of knowledge of its value than a fear of increasing the productiveness of the land. Without this the farms are in a good state of improvement, and with their white-washed cottages and tin-roofed churches and spires, arrest the traveler's attention, though there is but little variety in the views.

Charles. Are the villages much higher than the river or nearly on a level?

Father. I had forgotten to mention a peculiarity of this river. The banks are almost level with the water, so that when you sail along you seem almost to be walking their streets, and sometimes I could scarcely convince myself that the water was not higher than the banks. Indeed I can express it no better than to say; "it is a deep uneven channel filled to overflowing."

Mary. Does it overflow its banks, Papa?

Father. Not to any extent.

Catharine. Are there settlements all the way upon the banks of the St. Lawrence?

Father. As far as I went, and I am told quite as many for about a hundred miles below Quebec.

Eliza. What is the appearance of these settlements, compact or scattered?

Father. There are numerous villages built for the most part around a handsome stone church; "while single houses and

farms at agreeable distances appear to keep up a regular train of communication."

Eliza. Are the houses built of logs as you have described?

Father. Most of the cottages are, and "covered with a white-wash composed of salt and lime, which gives them quite a brilliant appearance." The residence of the Seigneurs and other country gentlemen are built of stone, large and handsome and the roofs covered with tin. The churches, which you will pass as often as once in six or eight miles have from one spire to three, which with the roofs are also covered with tin,

Mrs. M. Will you explain what you mean by Seigniories, for I do not perfectly understand them.

Father. They are portions of land skirting all the great rivers in the Province, which were given by the French to those, who were relatives or favorites of the Government, or to those, who had performed some service for their country. They vary in size according to the value of the land,

or as the nature of the services required. This land is divided by the Seigneur, i.e. the one who possesses it, into small lots or farms and rented by him to tenants at a very low price.

Mary. Can he sell the land?

Father. Not as we sell land; for if it passes from the hand of the owner except by hereditary descent, he must pay to the government one fifth or one eighth of the purchase money.

Eliza. What then are the advantages of a Seigneur?

Father. They are many, and the Seigneurs are generally wealthy. The tenants in the first place pay but a trifling sum for the rent of a farm, say from 2s. 6d. to 5s. To this rent is added a pair of fowls, a goose, a duck, a bushel of grain, or something of the kind, and when you recollect that some of them have hundreds of tenants, you will readily perceive that this alone is something of an income. Besides the tenants must make the roads and have

their grinding done at the mill of the Seigneur, who takes 1-16 of the whole. The old French laws constituted the Seigneurs a court of judges of all crimes committed by their tenants except murder and treason.

Mrs. M. But do they retain their laws and property as before they were conquered?

Father. The criminal code of Great Britain was introduced, otherwise their laws remained the same except occasional modifications as in our government.

Catharine. Has Canada a governor like the States?

Father. Yes, but appointed by the King of England.

Charles. How are the laws formed?

Father. The two houses of Parliament propose laws for the approval or disapproval of the King.

Mrs. M. How are the expenses of the government paid?

Father. There is a revenue created by duties upon some articles of produce, &c.

which has enabled the provinces for some years nearly to support themselves, though they have ever been a bill of expense to Great Britain.

Eliza. I should think they were ungrateful to rebel against the government when so much has been done for them.

Father. They do not complain that many of the *acts of government* are oppressive; it is the spirit manifested towards them as a conquered people that produces uneasiness. Besides, they are not appointed to offices of state, and have not the same opportunity for promotion as the English inhabitants, consequently their laws are made *for them* without their cooperation or consent.

Mrs. M. But are none of the branches of government elective?

Father. But one, and that is the house of Assembly.

Charles. I do not see, then, why they were to blame in the late rebellion.

Father. The *manner* in which they

sought redress, my son, should be condemned by all. They should have continued to petition the mother country ; not taken up arms against her.

Mary. What is the religion of these Seigniories ?

Father. Roman Catholic ; and as you pass these villages you will frequently see a cross in some conspicuous place, sometimes made of stone, but more commonly “ of wood surmounted with a crown of thorns.”

Eliza. How is their religion supported ?

Father. By the income of land, the rent of which is devoted to advancing the Catholic religion ; by the payment of one 26th part of all the land produces to the Curates, and by direct taxation for the building of churches, parsonages and other religious purposes.

Mrs. M. I should like to understand how the Catholic Priests get and retain such an ascendancy over the minds of their adhe-

rents as to enable them to exact money, &c. whenever they please.

Father. It is all done by management, and taking advantage of their superstition. The Catholics in Canada are under the immediate direction of a Bishop, who passes through the country once in seven years with great pomp and display: multitudes go before him, cut down branches of the trees and spread them in the way. "As he passes their streets with his Coadjuter Bishop and nine vicars general on the right hand and on the left, with four behind him to hold from the ground the trail of his gaudy mantle embroidered within and without with fine wrought gold, the bewildered inhabitants fall upon their knees and worship." These together with their 300 Curates and Missionaries; their Colleges, Seminaries and Convents, form the apparatus by which they accomplish their designs.

Charles. Is this the only religion of Canada?

Father. No. The Protestant religion under different denominations, prevails to some extent; though nearly four fifths of the lower province are Catholics.

Mary. Are the Protestants supplied with preaching?

Father. The Church of England, which is here established by law, have a few clergymen sustained with high salaries, paid in part by the government and part by a society in England, to propagate the gospel in foreign parts.

Mrs. M. You said there were various denominations; do those who do not belong to the Established Church enjoy the means of grace?

Father. To a very limited extent. The Wesleyans once attempted to occupy the ground, but in most cases, have withdrawn their ministers. Some of the churches in the United States, in connexion with the Canada Missionary Society, have recently made some efforts to supply the Eastern Townships with the ordinances of the gospel.

Eliza. By whom is the Canada Missionary Society sustained?

Father. By the benevolent in all places, but especially by the Presbyterians and Congregationalists in Montreal. The ladies in Montreal have made very laudable exertions in this cause; perhaps they have not been surpassed by any in the States.

Mary. Is this the same society which has recently become auxiliary to the American Home Missionary Society?

Father. Yes. And this has made the prospects of Canada, in a moral point of view, much more flattering than they have heretofore been. They now come into the sphere of our missionary operations.

Catharine. How many Protestants should you suppose there were in these Townships?

Father. More than 50,000.

Henry. Why, Papa, I did not suppose there were so many people in all Canada.

Father. When the last census was taken there were between 5 and 600,000 in Lower Canada alone.

Mrs. M. Did you intend to have us understand that these 50,000 Protestants have all been, until now, destitute of religious privileges?

Father. Many of them have been entirely destitute. They have never even seen a preacher of the gospel in public or in their own habitations. I made it a prominent object in my tour, to learn the moral condition of these Townships. I told you they were mostly settled from the United States. Many of these carried with them, from the respective churches to which they belonged, letters of recommendation, which they have never had an opportunity of presenting. I met an aged man of this description, whose letter was dated twenty-seven years before. By means of the recent missionary operations he is now enjoying the privileges of a christian church.

Eliza. When preaching is sent to them do they listen attentively?

Father. All that have been engaged as preachers have found that though negligent

at first and inattentive, they have succeeded in awakening an abiding interest; and many churches have been formed and are now in a prosperous state. One of the ministerial associations in Massachusetts has furnished from their own number, a preacher for these townships for three or four summers in succession. One of these missionaries, in his report, states that, although at first he had but very few hearers, their number increased until he had what would be called a respectable congregation in any place of its size. One of his hearers came regularly from a distance of twelve miles, another twenty, and on a communion season a man and his wife came thirty miles and brought a babe to be baptized. He also spoke of a young man, who traveled more than fifty miles to unite with his church. He was invited to address a maternal association, which had been formed in one of the places where he labored, and although the weather was excessively hot, twenty-five mothers were present. Some *walked*

more than four miles, and ten more than two miles.

Mary. Have they Temperance Societies in Canada?

Father. To some extent. The missionary above mentioned found a flourishing temperance society, which originated through the influence of a Temperance Almanac, and some who were confirmed in habits of intemperance have been reclaimed by it.

Catharine. How much good that person has done who bought that almanac, or sent it there.

Father. No more than is in the power of every little child to do, who refrains from expending its sixpence for self-indulgence, and casts it into some benevolent treasury.

Charles. Are Sabbath Schools extensively established?

Father. They have been established and stopped for want of men to conduct and feel an interest in sustaining them. It is difficult for those of us, who are hedged in by religious institutions, to form any adequate

idea of the situation of those, on whom no such influence is exerted from any quarter. No Bibles, no tracts; but children growing up without the knowledge of God; and this not only in one place, but with few exceptions throughout the whole Townships; containing a population of many thousand souls.

Mrs. M. Have they not had some itinerating preachers to counteract this influence?

Father. Some; but Canada has been the resort of *many*, who were not regularly authorized to preach, and who, I am sorry to say, have created prejudices against religion rather than extended its mild influences. Where judicious and faithful preachers have labored, they have universally raised the desires and hopes of the people for a permanent ministry; but their expectations have been so often cut off that they are discouraged; for you know "hope deferred maketh the heart sick."

Eliza. I should think they could support

the gospel without the assistance of missionary societies?

Father. They could, undoubtedly, if there was union of religious sentiment and moral feeling; but there are many obstacles to be removed before they can support the gospel themselves. There is scarcely a Township in Lower Canada, which is not abundantly able to furnish support for a minister; but as the institutions of the Established Church are free, and the labors of the Wesleyans were not chargeable to them, they have been in the habit of hearing preaching gratuitously and have not associated in their minds religious privileges and expense. Besides there is a stagnation; a want of enterprise, which always accompanies religious destitution however desirable the location or rich the soil; where the restraints of the Gospel are taken off, no community can be called prosperous.

Henry. Are the people in Canada generally poor?

Father. Not generally; but as I have

said, the lands in Canada are all tax free and this has induced many to go in there to repair wasted fortunes or to gain a livelihood when they had been disappointed in the means of support. Some have succeeded ; but it is really melancholy to see those, who once moved in a high circle and enjoyed the privileges of a land particularly blessed of God, destitute not only of all the ordinances of the gospel, but also the comforts of life. I called on one family of this description, which excited my sympathy *very much*. The lady was originally from England ; an intelligent, interesting woman and blessed with a superior education. Their habitation was humble ; the outer door so low that I could not enter it without stooping. She sat in the only room the dwelling contained, with an infant in her arms, on a kind of rocking chair framed by an affectionate husband. The other furniture consisted of a couch or bed, a three legged stool, a rough box for a seat containing potatoes, and an old barrel partly filled

with oat meal. There was a large Dutch chimney around which the cooking utensils were arranged, and a window consisting of four panes of glass.

Mary. Did she appear contented and happy ?

Father. Yes, and full of faith and love to God. I visited her frequently, and once as I alluded to her humble habitation, she remarked ; “ it is a fine place from which to look out to a habitation above.”

Catharine. Was she a member of a church ?

Father. Yes. And when her child was six weeks old she walked five miles that she might secure for it the rite of baptism.

Henry. O mama, will you not let us form a society for the support of a missionary in Canada ?

Mrs. M. Most willingly would I assist you in such an undertaking ; and you may, if you please, devote what you have already earned this year for that purpose.

Charles. How many missionaries are now laboring there ?

Father. There are eleven named in the last "Report of the Canada Home Missionary and Education Society." Beside these, there are some settled pastors supported by the people among whom they labor.

Eliza. I suppose Montréal supports its own ministry?

Father. O yes, and much more. Indeed it is the centre of all moral and religious influence in the province. It has an efficient Bible Society, which has resolved to supply every family in the province with a copy of the Holy Scriptures, and has already accomplished much of this good work. It is also feelingly alive to the subject of Temperance, and in the city alone, within a few months, one thousand have pledged themselves to total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks.

Mrs. M. What is the situation of common schools in Canada?

Father. There is but little interest felt in them; but they have a school fund, which enables them to support a competent number of teachers.

Mary. How was this fund obtained ?

Father. When the French gave up their country to the English, it was stipulated in the treaty, that the French should retain their Seigniories, their laws and their religion, but they were to give up the order of Jesuits with the death of those who were then living among them. The property of this order, which was large, then reverted to the crown and was constituted a school fund for the benefit of the provinces. Special efforts have recently been made, in connexion with missionary exertions, to supply the country with *efficient* and pious teachers, and more than one thousand children have, the last year, been for the first time under such instruction.

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C A N A D A .

P A R T II.

“IF any one should call for me,” said Mr. M. to his wife, rising from the tea-table and taking his hat and cloak, “tell them I’m engaged in business with Mr. B.”

“O papa, papa,” was heard simultaneously from the younger part of the family circle, “you promised us a description of the remainder of your tour to Canada, the first time we recited our lessons perfectly, and not one of us have failed to-day.”

The father hesitated, but as his business required his presence at that hour, he step-

ped to the library, and taking Silliman's tour from Hartford to Quebec, requested his wife to read to them some of his interesting sketches, promising to return in a short time. The hour passed rapidly away, and he found them on his return all eager listeners.

"I have read these descriptions with a new interest," said Mrs. M. "I had forgotten that so much beauty and importance was attached to Montreal."

Father. The view of the city, as you approach it, is indeed singularly beautiful. It stretches nearly two miles along the river; is more than half a mile in breadth, and is said to cover more than 1000 acres. A high mountain rises directly behind it, and its dark green verdure forms a pleasing contrast with the "silver-roofed" buildings.

Henry. But, papa, Cousin S. said it was a gloomy place; that the streets were very narrow and the houses old fashioned.

Father. To a youth from Philadelphia, it might appear so, for it is entirely unlike

an American city. The houses are built of grey-lime-stone, some of them without hewing at all and coarsely daubed with mortar. Many of them and the shops have iron doors and iron frames to fortify their window shutters. Every thing looks foreign about it. The barracks, that are occupied by the soldiers at the lower end of the city, are built in the French style, and the streets, except the new ones, are much narrower than ours.

Mrs. M. But I have heard that Montreal contained some elegant buildings.

Father. I did not intend you should understand that *all* were erected in this way. There are many both public and private buildings of hewn stone that would adorn any city.

Eliza. Is Montreal regularly laid out ?

Father. Yes. The principal streets run parallel with the banks of the river, and others of importance cross them at right angles. The whole extent of what is embraced within the limits of the city, is not

covered with buildings so closely as is generally the case in large towns. But it is the scenery connected with and around Montreal that constitutes its chief beauty.

Catharine. I did not know until this evening, that Montreal is on an island. Is it a large one ?

Father. It is of a triangular form thirty-two miles in length, and ten and a half across the widest part.

Mary. Is the city on one of the extreme points of the island ?

Father. No. It is about half way between them, exactly at the head of ship navigation.

Mrs. M. But I have heard regrets expressed that the city was not built a little below its present site, on account of affording a better opportunity for navigation.

Father. This is only on account of the rapid of St. Mary near one of the suburbs of the city ; but this inconvenience is remedied by the La'chine canal, an improvement of great value.

Charles. Father, you said many of their public buildings are stone ; will you please mention some of them.

Father. The building called the Parochial church is pronounced “ the most magnificent pile of sacred architecture in America.” The front presents a piazza with three lofty entrances supported by columns, bounded on each side by large square towers. It has two tiers of spacious galleries and will receive within its walls *when crowded*, 15,000 people, about half the population of the city. A gentleman belonging to Canada said to me that he went into it when the walls were building and saw the materials carried up to the workmen by means of a spiral pathway. This will give you some idea of its size, for the enclosure *must be large* that would admit of such a path for a team.

Eliza. Is this a Catholic church ?

Father. Yes, and it is open for the poor deluded worshipers every day from morning till night. On going in you will see

some kneeling, some crossing themselves, some sitting in the pews or on benches around the walls counting their beads, &c.

Henry. Should we see any priests there?

Father. Yes; but they would be in little closets or boxes, where they go in to hear confessions.

Catharine. Are there pictures and images in this church?

Father. Yes, many. The image of Christ is opposite the door where you enter. When I was in, I saw some kneeling before that and other pictures and images; sometimes on one knee, sometimes on both. Like all Catholic churches, it has a dish near the door containing Holy water; so that those who enter may dip their fingers and cross themselves. Sometimes this is done on the breast, sometimes on the forehead.

Henry. What makes the water holy?

Father. I am unable to answer you. I made many inquiries about this foolish superstition and heard various reasons assigned for it. Some believe that it is collected

on a day in the year, which they consider as the anniversary of the commencement of Noah's flood ; I suppose whether it rains or not. Others suppose that its holiness is the result of a miracle performed upon it by the priest.

Mary. How is it possible, papa, that people can be made to believe such nonsense ?

Father. An unenlightened Catholic, my child, believes implicitly whatever is told him by a priest, and many of them believe that the power of the priest is superior to that of any other being. I engaged one of this description to take me a short journey, and he amused me most of the way by relating miracles performed by the priests in days gone by.

Charles. Will you not repeat some of them ?

Father. I can recollect but two or three. He told me there was at one time a fire in one of the villages that threatened to destroy it. The terrified inhabitants, after using

every means to subdue it, sent for the priests to come to their assistance. They went, and making a mark in the earth between the church and the flames, they ceased raging nor dared go over their prescribed bounds. At another time a section of the country was greatly infested with grasshoppers. Fearing they would devour every living thing, the inhabitants collected the priests, who prayed them out of their coasts. On another occasion there was a long continued rain, which caused a river to rise so rapidly that great fears were entertained lest the surrounding country should be inundated. The priests were sent for to stop the rain. They commenced praying, and he told me, although the rain ceased not, yet a much greater miracle was performed; for the channel not being able to contain the body of water, it rose up full two feet from its banks and thus moved off in one solid column. If the poor Catholics can be made to believe such absurdities as these, you will not wonder that they regard as

sacred what their priests tell them is holy.

Mary. There are other Catholic churches I suppose in Montreal ?

Father. Yes. There is the Catholic Cathedral, three Catholic churches and a chapel connected with each of the three nunneries.

Eliza. But is not that large church a Cathedral ?

Father. It is not called so. I understand a Cathedral to be a church where the Bishop statedly officiates.

Catharine. Are there no Protestant churches there ?

Father. Yes, several, and the steeple to the Protestant Episcopal church is a very "tasteful and prominent ornament of the city."

Mrs. M. Has not Montreal increased quite rapidly in importance within a few years ?

Father. Yes. It has increased the number of its inhabitants nearly one third, since

1825, and its increase of commerce, agriculture and manufactures are in proportion. It is no doubt destined to become one of the greatest channels for trade in North America.

Charles. Why is it better than Boston, papa? it is not so large.

Father. Its size does not constitute its importance; my son, but its situation. It is a point where all the vast surrounding countries connect themselves with the ocean. Boston and other ports of the kind, are connected with the surrounding countries only by means of railways and canals, but here nearly six hundred miles in the interior, Montreal, by means of the St. Lawrence and other rivers, derives all the benefit of a direct ship communication with the other parts of the world.

Mary. Were its advantages in this respect known at the time of its settlement?

Father. Yes. The location was selected by Jaques Cartier, who sailed up the St. Lawrence to that point. It is said to de-

rive its name from the beautiful mountain, which raises its head several hundred feet in the rear of the city ; the word originally signifying the Royal Mountain.

Catharine. Is Quebec as romantic as Montreal ?

Father. It is entirely different. Every view of Quebec is bold and magnificent and excites sublime emotions, while some of the views of Montreal are delicately beautiful. Quebec is a fortress and seems designed by nature for this purpose.

Charles. Was it intended for the Capital when it was first settled ?

Father. Yes. It was selected as the place best fitted to administer the government of the colony, by the French king's geographer in 1608. It was then an Indian village upon the promontory now named Cape Diamond. Quebec is divided into the upper and lower city ; the latter is built on the water's edge, the former on the fortress more than 340 feet above it.

Eliza. Is this rise only where the city is built, or does it extend farther?

Father. I remarked to you that the banks of the St. Lawrence were low. They begin to rise from Cape Roque, a few miles above Quebec, and after various hills and precipices attain the height of Cape Diamond. On the North bank of the river the plains of Abraham stretch themselves. Here you will recollect General Wolfe was slain, and the towers that stand for the defence of these plains are the first that meet the eye of the traveler as he descends the river from Montreal.

Henry. How many are there of these towers?

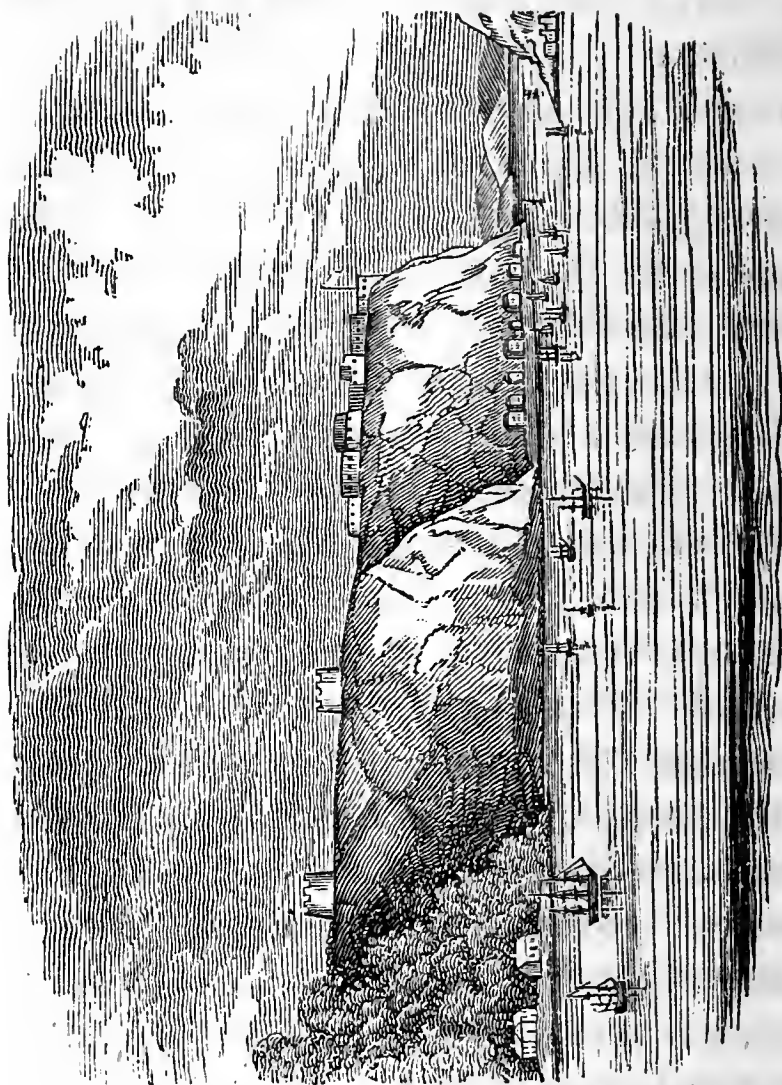
Father. Four, called Martello Towers. They are round and built of stone.

Charles. Are they high and strong?

Father. About forty feet high and very strong, except the side opposite the town. This side is made so that if an enemy should ever gain them, they could be destroyed by the cannon from the city.

Mary. Are the cannon, which fortify the city, higher than those on the plains of Abraham?

Father. Yes, but in order that you should understand them, I will tell you a little more of the situation of the place. The upper town is entirely surrounded by an almost impenetrable stone wall. It is about three miles in circuit and has ponderous arches and strong massy gateways and gates. This wall is all that separates the city from the plains of Abraham on the South; these being only a continuance of the mountainous bank. The front of the town is circular and more than half the distance round is supported by a naked black rocky precipice. The wall I mentioned surmounts these rocks also, and the highest points are crowned with towers. Here is a view of Quebec as you approach it from the South West, with the plains of Abraham and the towers; but the best idea of the *city* can be gained from the frontispiece. For both of these plates we are indebted to Silliman.



Approach to Quebec from the S. W.

Catharine. How thick are these walls?

Father. They vary in thickness according to the height of the bank, and means of ascending it. On that part towards the plains of Abraham, which is the only side that an enemy could enter the city, the walls are fifty feet thick, and nearly the same in height. A deep ditch is dug directly beneath it, then another wall is raised and another ditch. The cannon on the highest wall are so situated as to make dreadful havoc among any, who should attempt to scale the outside wall or cross the ditch.

Eliza. Did you see the castle of St. Louis?

Father. Yes; it stands on the very edge of the precipice I have described to you. It is the residence of the governor of the province. It was formerly a French fortress and covered four acres of ground. Since that time it has undergone many changes. The present castle is a plain yellow structure of stone, and is the front of a large

square, in which are contained public offices and rooms for public amusements; also a guard-house, stable and extensive gardens. The front of the building, which almost overlooks the lower town, is more than 160 feet long, and a gallery runs its whole length. This gallery is supported by lofty pillars, which are built up and rest upon the rock below. The foundation of these pillars are about 200 feet above the lower town, and you can stand in the gallery and see all the movements of the little world directly beneath you. Indeed you feel absolutely unsafe and giddy to look perpendicularly down upon the confusion and jargon of the lower city. It has been remarked that not only from this situation, but from the walls of the upper town, a stone could be dropped into the chimnies below; and in most cases before reaching the object, it would fall two or three hundred feet.

Mrs. M. How is the lower city fortified?

Father. Principally by the fortifications above.

Charles. I do not understand exactly how this city can be under the other. Was it built before or after that?

Father. When the upper city was settled, there was nothing but a landing where the lower city now stands. The St. Lawrence then washed the foot of the precipices, and ships were confined by rings being driven with staples into the rocks. For some cause the water is not so high as then, and buildings are crowded in the most compact manner possible on this narrow strip between the precipices and the St. Lawrence to the distance of nearly two miles. It is merely a business place and the streets are dirty and narrow. The rocks jut over some of the buildings and look as though they would fall and crush them; but no part of the houses of the upper town are visible below.

Henry. How do they get into the upper town?

Father. By steep and intricate avenues, and at every turn cannon are pointing to guard them.

Charles. Can they go up otherwise than on foot?

Father. The Canadian horses go up, but I had much rather trust myself on my feet than endure the fear of being thrust backwards from these heights.

Mary. What is the appearance of the city as you enter it?

Father. You at first find yourself in narrow streets with high stone buildings on each side, which give it a very gloomy appearance; but you soon come in sight of a delightful promenade, public buildings and the soldier's barracks, which afford quite a pleasing variety. There is not much *within* the city to admire; but the *distant* views presented to the eye, particularly from Cape Diamond, where the Fort is built, surpass for grandeur, beauty and diversity any I have ever witnessed. Indeed it is said by those, who have visited foreign countries,

that they are not exceeded by any on the globe. In the variegated expanse laid out before you, stupendous rocks, immense rivers, trackless forests, cultivated plains, mountains, lakes, towns and villages alternately strike the attention. If you add to these scenes the fact, that beneath you is rolling through the channel of the St. Lawrence the immense bodies of fresh water, which are the ornament of our country and the admiration of the world, descending like another sea to swell the bosom of the Atlantic, the scene is overpowering and tremendous.

Mrs. M. Are the falls of Montmorenci seen from this point?

Father. In favorable weather they are distinctly seen in all their beauty, leaping down a precipice of more than 200 feet.

Eliza. Father, you said these views are from Cape Diamond where the fort is built; is the fort within the city?

Father. It is within the city walls; but so situated that it could defend itself and

destroy the whole city in case of any mutiny there. It is even said, though I cannot vouch for the truth of it, that there is a train of preparations by which the city could be instantaneously blown up, if there was danger of its falling into the hands of an enemy.

Catharine. You said that the wall was all that separated the city from the plains of Abraham; can you go easily from one place to the other?

Father. Yes, you have only to pass through a gate, when you will find yourself on the ground which drank the heart's-blood of the noble Wolfe and others.

Mrs. M. What peculiar feelings are excited on viewing a battle ground. As we passed Chippewa, when I visited Niagara Falls, imagination peopled it with the contending armies, and I almost fancied I heard the groans of the dying.

Father. How then would you have felt, had you been with me when I visited this interesting spot. It was on a day when

the Queen's troops were reviewed out upon these plains by the Commander in Chief. Of course there was warlike music; the troops were arranged as for fighting, and the movements of different portions of them were in imitation of a battle. Imagination could easily supply all that was necessary in order to see before me the spirits of the heroes and veterans of former days urging on to death or victory. In the midst of it, to perfect the delusion, the muffled drum was heard as if in mourning for the dead and dying. For a moment I forgot where I was or when I lived; and was only aroused from the reverie by the sight of a company of Highlanders, who were following a fellow soldier to the silent grave; and from whom I found proceeded the sound of the muffled drum.

Charles. I never knew until mama told us that the victory of General Wolfe prepared the way for the independence of America. She explained it to us Independence day, and told us she thought you

might be on the spot where he fell at that time.

Mary. Did you spend Independence there ?

Father. No. I was at —, on July 4, but it passed in such a manner as plainly to tell me I was in another country than my own. They have no sympathy at all with the states in commemorating the events, which were followed with such benefits to America and the world.

Eliza. What days do they celebrate ?

Father. July 17 is a holiday with the *Irish* and is kept in celebration of Noah's flood.

Henry. Do they keep it as we do Independence ?

Father. As *some* do ; by drinking and fighting. July 12 is also a day much anticipated by a part of the Canadians. It is the anniversary of the celebrated battle of the Boyne. William III. king of England passed this river on that day, and by a victorious battle gained the freedom of Ireland.

There has often been blood shed on that day, particularly in the old country. As William was Prince of Orange, the Protestants wear badges of orange color, and carry their charters and their flags containing the laws of Parliament; much to the annoyance of the Catholics.

Mrs. M. What other towns worthy of notice, did you visit between Quebec and Montreal?

Father. The town of Sorel or Wm. Henry is a place of importance. It is situated at the mouth of the river bearing the same name; built of wood, regularly laid out and comprises 120 acres. It contains many squares, however, which add much to its beauty, and the shores being bold give it an inviting appearance. It is important as the point of communication between Lake Champlain and the St. Lawrence, and is the summer residence of the Governor of the province. It is also of great importance to those who shall engage in evangelizing Canada.

Charles. Has it a large population?

Father. No. I was told at some seasons of the year it numbered more than 2000; but its importance arises from its being in the heart of the Catholic country, and accessible from every direction. Besides the way is prepared for a religious influence there. Many of its inhabitants may be considered as favorable to pure religion, and they have a flourishing Sabbath school.

Mary. Would this place rank in importance *next* to Quebec and Montreal?

Father. No. The town of Three Rivers, half way between these two points, is the third in importance in the province. The tide in the St. Lawrence sets up to this place. It derives its name from the St. Maurice River, which empties here into the St. Lawrence, and is divided at its mouth into three parts by little islands; so that there seems to be three rivers instead of one.

Eliza. Is this valuable as a port?

Father. There is no harbor, though vessels lie there, and steam-boats stop for fuel. Near the place are extensive iron works where stoves are made. As the houses in the provinces are warmed altogether by stoves, such a foundry of itself would give importance to a place, and I was told that from four to five hundred men have been at times employed in this foundry. As there is no sand in the provinces suitable to run them in, it is imported in large quantities.

Viewed either in a political or commercial light the four places I have described are the most important in the province; but the religious man in looking at Canada will place his eye on Stanstead, situated on the line between the United States and Canada; Shipton and Melbourne on the St. Francis river between Stanstead and Quebec; and Granby and Shefford between Stanstead and Montreal.

Mrs. M. I have frequently heard these places named, but have never understood what constituted their importance.

Father. There are churches established there ; they have longer enjoyed the institutions of religion and they are sustained by able ministers, who will sympathise with the surrounding country and lend their influence to extend the pure principles of the gospel.

Mary. Did not Mr. Parker, of whom we have heard so much, preach in that part of the province ?

Father. Yes, and he is still there laboring with unabated zeal ; though great fears are entertained that his feeble health will oblige him to suspend his labors. Mr. Parker's praise is *deservedly* in all the churches. The trials and difficulties, with which his way has been hedged up, would have discouraged any but a heart that trusted in the promises of God. But he has struggled through them all, comparatively alone ; and now has the happiness of seeing " the grain of mustard seed springing up and branching abroad " in the land of his efforts. He has been instrumental in forming seve-

ral churches in that vicinity, and their last "Report" contains many thrilling accounts of the success of the gospel among them. One of the missionaries writes; "Several of my hearers come on foot from four to five miles; and one frequently, I had almost said statedly, walks *ten* miles. When I came here there had been no stated preaching in one of the settlements where I labor for eight or ten years, and there was perhaps but one house in the settlement in which family worship was attended; now it numbers more than twenty church members, and many family altars." Another when speaking of a communion season says; "One female member of the church, who for two or three years had not enjoyed such a privilege, walked nine miles, most of the way through the woods, to give evidence she had not forgotten the command of the Savior, 'Do this in remembrance of me.' Such instances have become so common they have ceased to affect me as they once did. I seldom now make the inquiry

or record the fact." But the evening is far spent and we must dismiss the subject.

Catharine. Please tell us first, papa, where Mr. Chapin is located, who left a beloved people in Massachusetts that he might labor in Canada.

Father. He was installed in October last as pastor of the churches of Granby and Shefford; and I will detain you a moment longer while I read an extract from his journal. "Spent the night with Mr. D.—, found here an intelligent child five years old, whose history deeply affected me. She had come on from beyond Sherbrooke eighty miles on foot, with a traveling company of emigrants. Her mother is dead, and her father abandoned her, leaving her with a girl of infamous character. When her mother was buried, as they had no boards in the settlement, they split a log and put up two side pieces in the grave, dropped her in, laid another half log on the top, and covered her up.

"When this wearied, worn-out and forsaken little sufferer reached Granby, she was

scarce able to go, her hard nail-fastened shoes were a *gore of blood*. It had dropped from her feet and dried in her shoes when I saw them. When on the road, and almost unable to stand, she was tied to a chest on a small hand-cart. The boys would run with her. Sometimes she fell off. She was taken by Mr. D. in a needy plight, and transferred to a relative where I saw her. And when I saw the kind and pious Mrs. D. lay her down at night, in a little neat bed on the floor, and imprint an affectionate kiss upon her cheek, and heard the happy child say 'Now I lay me down to sleep,' and 'Our Father, who art in heaven,' I thought indeed God was good to the orphan, that his love for little children was infinitely more parental than that of father and mother. It carried me back to the scene when my own dear mother taught me the same lines, the first I ever knew. As I knelt down in our evening devotions, I could not but bless God, and more implicitly believe that not a sparrow falls to the ground without his eye."

The first of these is the fact that the
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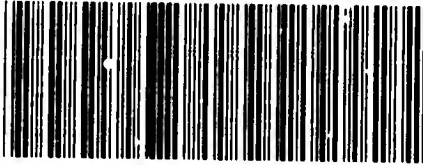
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